GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
LOSS TO CROPS DUE TO COLD
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prolonged cold and foggy spell in the Northern parts of the country recently has hit the standing crops, jeopardizing the prospects of a bumper rabi harvest and has damaged/destroyed mustard crop in Northern India including Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance to farmers whose crops have been damaged as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.96 DUE FOR REPLY ON 24TH FEBRUARY, 2003.

(a)&(b): The prolonged cold spell had some adverse impact on the growth of rabi crops, including mustard. However, the rains in the last week of January, 2003 were timely and had a favourable impact on the rabi crops. The production of rabi crops including mustard this year is likely to be less than that of last year primarily due to decrease in the area sown as a result of the moisture stress experienced during monsoon (June-September) and post-monsoon (October-December). According to the second advance estimates of agricultural production released on February 10, 2003, the production of rabi foodgrains in 2002-03 is likely to be 92.91 million tones, which is 7.56 million tones or 7.5% less than last year`s rabi production. The production of rapeseed and mustard during 2002-03 is likely to be 4.48 million tones which is 0.56 million tones or 11% less than last year`s production. Harvest of rabi crops including mustard is yet to start in most of the States. No firm State- wise figures of rabi production for the 2002-03 season are available yet.

(c)&(d): In order to provide protection to farmers in the event of damage to crop due to natural calamities, the Government have introduced National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from rabi 1999-2000 season.The NAIS, inter-alia, provides for premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers. Further, in order to compensate the farmers for increase in input costs, the Government announced special drought relief ranging from Rs.5 to Rs.10 per quintal for rabi crops of 2002-03 season.